Poisoning of Ganga water

†1057. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ganga water below Haridwar is becoming poisonous due to increasing quantity of arsenic and fluoride in the ground water;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that due to drainage of sewer water of cities situated on the bank of Ganga, arsenic and fluoride has increased problem in Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal;

(c) if so, steps taken by Government to stop it; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) As per information provided by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), the ground water shows fluoride and arsenic contamination in parts of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal due to geogenic sources. However, increasing concentration of these pollutants has not been found in Ganga water by CPCB.

CPCB through another study on contamination of ground water due to sewage discharge, has also not found any contribution of fluoride and arsenic from sewage.

(c) and (d) The steps taken by the Government include the following:

(i) CGWB carries out exploratory drilling in affected areas to delineate contaminant free aquifer zones for handing over the uncontaminated wells to the user agencies in the States.

(ii) CPCB has been directing the industries through State Pollution Control Boards to comply with stipulated standards for discharge of effluents. It also initiates schemes for setting up Common Effluent Treatment Plants for clusters of small scale industrial units.

(iii) Under the Ganga Action Plan, pollution abatement works in the polluted stretches of river Ganga are being implemented since 1985. A total sewage treatment capacity of 1747 (mld) million litres per day has been created so far for Ganga and its tributaries.

Eviction of tribals

1058. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the tribals are being evicted from their age old habitations near the forest for various development projects;

(b) the alternate arrangement being provided for them; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) No sir. All the developmental projects do not require

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.